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Message Text

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17
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SAB-01 DODE-00 /045 W
---------- 121438
R 192056Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4423
INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5665

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: CI, PFOR, XM
SUBJECT: THIRD COUNTRY ISSUES

REFS: (A) STATE 192947 (B) SANTIAGO 5156

1. SAN JOSE RESOLUTION AND RESUMPTION OF CANAL NEGOTIATIONS HAVE NOT CHANGED EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF JULY.

2. CUBA AND FREEDOM OF ACTION: AS REPORTED REFTEL B, GOC DEPLORES ANY MOVE TO RELAX SANCTIONS AGSINT CUBA. SAN JOSE RESOLUTION AND FACT U.S. VOTED FOR IT ONLY CONFIRMS FOR MOST GOC LEADERS WHAT THEY SEE AS USG MUDDLEHEADEDNESS AND WEAKNESS IN FACE OF COMMUNIST ONSLAUGHT. ALTHOUGH SAN JOSE ACTION CAME AS NO SURPRISE TO GOC, IT WAS NEVERTHELESS ROUNDLY CONDEMNED BY GOVT SPOKESMEN AND CHILEAN MEDIA. WE SEE NO GIVE IN GOC HARDLINE POSITION ON CUBA, WITH GOC PERFECTLY WILLING TO BE "RIGHT" ALBEIT ISOLATED ON THIS ISSUE. EVEN SO, EFFECT ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH CHILE IS NOT SIGNIFICANT AT PRESENT. GOC BITTERNESS WOULD INCREASE SHOULD USG RUSH INTO REMOVAL OF ECONOMIC BLOCKADE AND RENEWAL OF RELATIONS.

3. PANAMA CANAL: WIRE SERVICE REPORTS OF BUNKER'S RETURN, SNYDER AMENDMENT, AND OTHER CANAL-RELATED TOPICS HAVE BEEN PLAYED IN CHILEAN MEDIA, BUT THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE EDITORIAL COMMENT. OUR ANALYSIS IN REFTEL B STILL HOLDS -- THAT
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GOC WANTS TO SEE CANAL KEPT OPEN UNDER EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT

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AND WITH REASONABLE TOLLS, AND TO AVOID HAVING TO CHOOSE
SIDES BETWEEN US AND PANAMA. WHILE GOC WOULD NOT BUCK
LA PRO-PANAMA TIDE IF US/PANAMA RELATIONSHIP BROKE DOWN,
NEITHER WOULD IT BE IN THE FOREFRONT OF ATTACK. RECENTLY,
GOC HAS ISSUED STATEMENTS HINTING STRONGLY THAT THIRD PARTIES
SHOULD STAY OUT OF CURRENT CHILE/BOLIVIA TALKS ON SEA
ACCESS FOR THE LATTER; IN SIMILAR VEIN, GOC PREFERRED
POSITION ON CANAL COULD WELL BE THAT IT IS BASICALLY A
US/PANAMA BILATERAL PROBLEM EVEN THOUGH OTHER LA COUNTRIES
ARE INTERESTED BYSTANDERS.
POPPER

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